



Maryland Department of Planning

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Richard Hughes (410) 514-7685

5 February 2013

### **Maryland Heritage Areas Authority to Hold Hearing on Request to Enlarge the Boundaries of the Montgomery County Heritage Area to include the City of Rockville**

CROWNSVILLE, MARYLAND -- The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority will hold a public hearing on a proposal to expand the boundaries of the Montgomery County Heritage Area to include certain portions of the City of Rockville.

**WHAT:** Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Public Hearing  
Proposed Boundary Enlargement of the  
Montgomery County Heritage Area to include the City of Rockville,  
Montgomery County, Maryland

**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 12, 2013  
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Rockville City Hall  
Mayor and Council Chambers  
111 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

See: <http://www.rockvillemd.gov/parks-facilities/cityhall.htm>

Local government officials, heritage resource organizations, conservationists, tourism industry representatives, business and property owners and others who are interested in the proposal to enlarge the boundaries of the Montgomery County Heritage Area to include certain portions of the City of Rockville are invited to the hearing.

~MORE INFORMATION~

Martin O'Malley, Governor  
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

Richard Eberhart Hall, AICP, Secretary  
Matthew J. Power, Deputy Secretary

On February 12, 2013 the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority will hold a public hearing on a proposal to expand the boundaries of the Montgomery County Heritage Area (MCHA) to include certain portions of the City of Rockville, Maryland.

The intent of State-certified heritage areas is to bring together government agencies, businesses, and private organizations in partnership to preserve and promote heritage area resources, revitalize communities, and promote sustainable economic development through a managed level of heritage tourism. The, Montgomery County Heritage Area, which includes portions of Montgomery County including the Towns of Barnesville, Brookeville, and Poolesville, satisfied certification requirements of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority in December 2004. MCHA was established to promote heritage tourism development that helps to diversify the County's economy while protecting, preserving and enhancing the unique heritage resources and traditions of Montgomery County. The MCHA boundary is intended to encompass those portions of the county that have been determined to include a concentration of heritage resources which help to portray and interpret Montgomery County's historical, cultural and natural heritage to residents and visitors. A State-approved management plan for the MCHA was developed that: describes the current boundaries of the Certified Heritage Area; defines areas within which certain State benefits including grants, loans and Sustainable Communities Tax Credits are available; outlines the Heritage Area's vision and goals and the area's significance and resources; assesses relevant land use issues; lists interpretive resources and programs; provides a market analysis and evaluates linkages between sites and appropriate organizations. The MCHA Management Plan (2002) is available online at <http://www.heritagemontgomery.org/content/management-plan-0>.

The City of Rockville is included in the MCHA Management Plan as a jurisdiction recommended for possible future inclusion within the Certified Heritage Area, but at the time of State certification in 2004, the City had not completed all State requirements for inclusion. On January 28, 2013 the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville approved an amendment to the Comprehensive Master Plan for the City of Rockville, Maryland to adopt by reference the entire Montgomery County Heritage Area Management Plan (Ordinance No. 2-13) and to amend the Montgomery County Heritage Area Management Plan to include a Rockville Chapter – see <http://www.rockvillemd.gov/masterplan/1-28-13%20MC%20HAA%20Draft.pdf> (Ordinance No. 2-13). Following these actions, MCHA and the governing body of the City of Rockville have submitted a proposal to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority affirming that all State requirements have now been met and requesting the Authority's approval to enlarge the existing boundary of the Certified Heritage Area to include portions of the City of Rockville.

After the public hearing and review of any comments received, the Authority will approve, approve with conditions or disapprove the request by MCHA and the City of Rockville to expand the boundaries of the current Certified Heritage Area. If the request is approved, within the portion of the City of Rockville within the Montgomery County Heritage Area, the City of Rockville and non-profits are eligible for grants, loans, and tax credits (non-profits only), and businesses and individuals are eligible for loans and tax credits available through the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority for heritage tourism related projects and activities.

The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority is an independent unit of state government that operates in the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP). For more information, contact the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, MDP at (410) 514-7685.

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